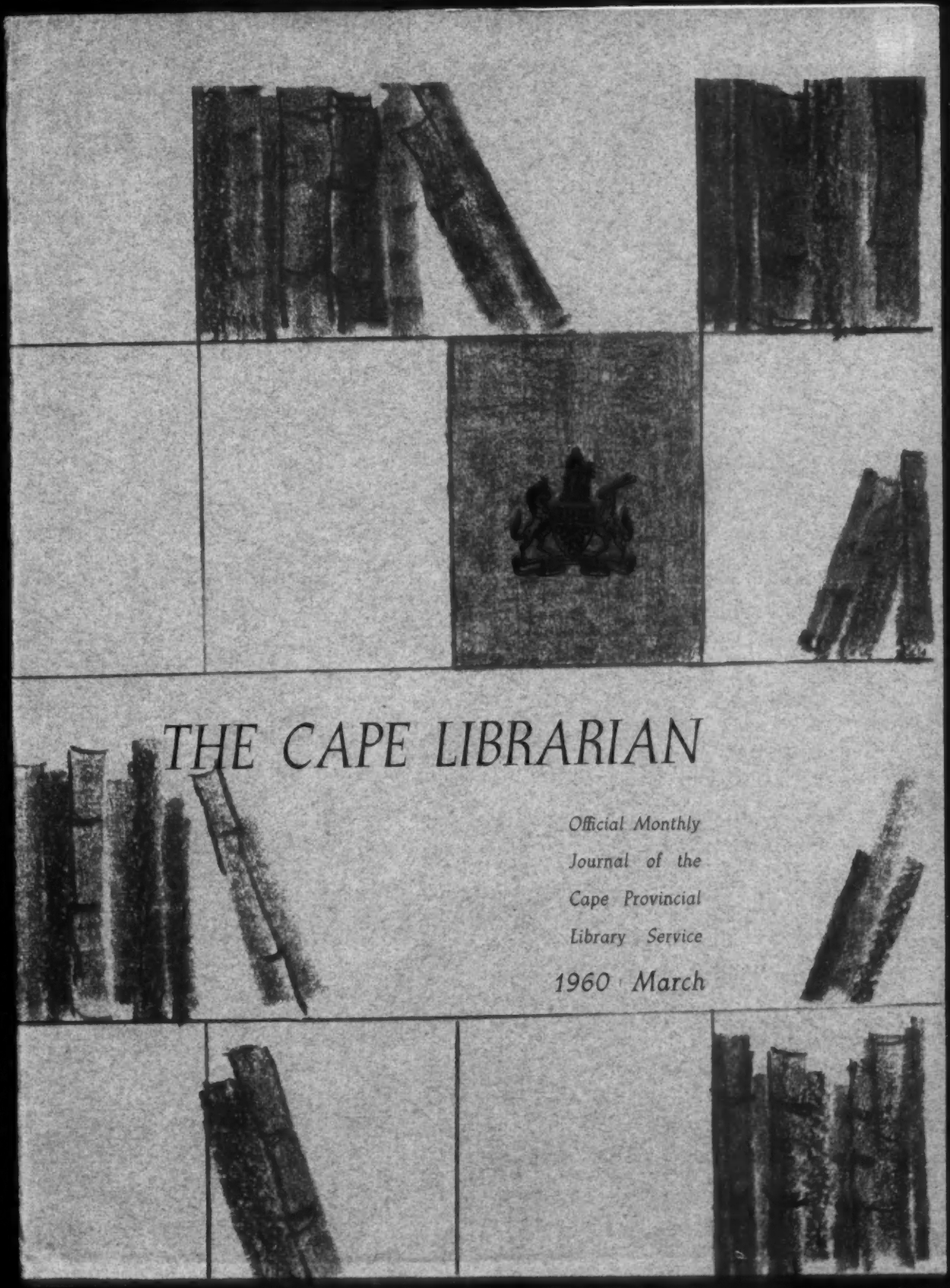

THE CAPE LIBRARIAN

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THE CAPE LIBRARIAN

DIE KAAPSE BIBLIOTEKARIS

Maart 1960
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REDAKSIONEEL

Dat daar hierdie maand min boekbesprekings is, is te wyte aan die feit dat die boeke wat op die keurlys is, eintlik nie een die moeite werd is om te reseneer nie. Ons hoop u sien dit oor.

Dit is om die minste daarvan te sê tragies dat daar selfs so n periode moet ontstaan waarin daar geen Afrikaanse standaardwerke gelewer word nie. Miskien moet ons dit maar in die oë kyk: ons is teen die huidige tempo langsamerhand besig om ons taal die onderspit te laat delf teen die veel ouer, veel ryper en meer gelese Engelse taal. Dat n taal moet veg om n voortbestaan, is meer as net n fiasko. Want taal en denke is in so n noue mate met mekaar gemoeid, dat daar eintlik gesê kan word die feit dat Afrikaans so min gelees word (omdat daar so min boeke in Afrikaans verskyn wat die moeite werd is) net maar die uiting is van die siekte. Die siekte self moet veel diepere lê.

Word ons taal aan bande gelê deur sekere faktore? Dit is moontlik. Tog kan dit nie oorheersend die oorsaak wees nie, want in die woorde van die bekende Guizelle: die gees wat in enge grense ingekom het, skiet soos n populier op.

Van Wyk Louw doen die oproep aan n volk wat in die noute of tussen die engtes gekom het om te kies tussen voortbestaan sonder geregtigheid of voortbestaan in geregtigheid. So ook met die letterkunde.

Miskien sit ons maar nèt met die uitskot van wat ons oorgelewer is van n vorige geslag: n geromantiseerde realisme, n huigelende werklikheidsbeelding, n ontoereikende eerlikheid.

Of is daar miskien tog krake in die grond waar die populier barste maak? Mag dit dan net gou kom. Sy letterkunde is die lewensbloed van n volk, meer selfs as sy ekonomie.

REDAKTEUR.

PLANNING OF LIBRARY MATERIAL FOR USE FROM THE ORGANIZATIONAL POINT OF VIEW - 2

Theo Friis

Mr. Friis, Director of the Cape Provincial Library Services, delivered this paper whilst attending the South African Library Association Conference held at Potchefstroom last September. As a result of his motion regarding the advisability of investigating library co-operation in South Africa the conference approved the appointment of a committee of five prominent South African librarians to investigate library organisation in South Africa with special reference to library co-operation. Mr. Friis is a member of this committee from whose findings great things are expected.

Library Co-operation Not New

The idea of a cooperative library system for South Africa is not a new one, especially not for the South African Library Association and the Union Government. As far back as 1890 the Kimberley Public Library Committee suggested closer cooperation between libraries "for mutual assistance and interchange of views"(2). Prof. Kidd from Grahamstown said in 1903 that cooperation will "... promote the efficiency of our libraries which at present jog along in splendid isolation ..."(3). About the year 1926, on the initiative of the Germiston Public Library, a scheme of inter-library lending was instituted for the East Rand. A meeting attended by representatives from the libraries of Benoni, Brakpan, Boksburg and Germiston was held at Benoni, and all were unanimously in favour of such a scheme. It was put into practice with great success.

The cooperative movement actually started seriously with the by now famous 1928 Bloemfontein Conference. Prior to 1928 there was a lack of a national library spirit, numerous uncoordinated and isolated small subscription libraries, lack of trained staff, buildings that were in general unsatisfactory, insufficient financial resources, a dearth of children's libraries, scanty service to non-Europeans, a real need for a library association and a professional journal, lack of training facilities, sufficient books but inexpert and unorganised selection policies, lack of free libraries, inadequate legislation, no central library: all were prevailing conditions and the symptoms that showed the state of affairs to be anything but sound; a challenge to the protagonist of cooperative movements.

At the 1928 Conference, which could in all probability be regarded as one of the greatest events in the educational history of the Union of South Africa, the following decisions were taken:(4)

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(2) Cape of Good Hope, *Reports of Public Libraries for 1890, G.47-'91*, (Cape Town: Richards, 1891) p.12.

(3) A. Stanley Kidd, "Our Public Libraries - A Grahastown Professor's Views", *Cape Times*, (Apr. 3, 1903) p.11.

(4) Milton J. Ferguson, *Memorandum. Libraries in the Union of South Africa, Rhodesia and Kenya Colony*, (New York: 1929) pp. 16-23.

"(d) The formation of a coordinated service throughout the country so as to avoid uneconomical library organisation (particularly in the purchasing of books) and to put all books in the national system within the reach of every citizen in the Union."

The Conference further recommended:

"1. Library Services:

The conference expressed itself in favour of a free library system to serve all sections of the country to be organised in the following manner:

A. General Library Organization:

(i) One of the existing libraries, in addition to functioning as a library serving its own immediated neighbourhood, to be so equipped for service as a principal centre as to supply the whole country with specialist and other more expensive types of books.

(ii) A number of existing libraries, say six in all, to be organised as secondary centres which in addition to functioning as libraries serving their own immediate neighbourhoods, would supplement within area assigned to them, the service provided by subordinate centres (i.e. district libraries).

(iii) Libraries in selected towns (as a rule magisterial seats) to be organised as subordinate centres to serve their own towns and districts.

(iv) Libraries in the smaller towns and villages, schools, police posts, womens institutes and other similar agencies to be used as "service points" for the distribution of books to readers within their reach.

(v) Whatever possible government, municipal, institutional and specialist collections, public and private, to be brought into the national service by means of cataloguing and loan service, in order to secure the fullest value and use of all resources of books in the Union.

(vi) Representation to be made to the Government to assist in the development of rural library services by free transportation of books by the South African Railways and the General Post Office.

V. Finance.

D. *Existing Libraries*: The Conference recommended that while the existing library management boards should be guaranteed the ownership and control of their property and capital assets, they should be encouraged in the national interest to transfer their resources to the national library system.

E. *National Library Board*: The Conference recommended that a National Library Board should be appointed to regulate and control the national library system.

G. *General*: The Conference also adopted the following resolutions:

(i) that the conference express its appreciation of the good service rendered by the Germiston Library to the country districts;

(ii) that the books and manuscripts of those institutions and private collections which came into the national library system should be catalogued on a uniform basis;

(iii) that a bibliography of South African literature should be compiled;

(iv) that should the responsible authorities decide in favour of a national library scheme the services of the surveyors be secured or the services of some other competent and experienced official be secured for the purpose of organising and establishing the scheme in the Union of South Africa."

This was in 1928. On the whole the Conference gave a considerable stimulus to the organisation of library material for use and the cooperation of library services in general.

Our South African Library Association was finally established in July, 1930, at which stage its constitution listed eight objectives of which No. 8 reads:

"8. To promote the fullest cooperation between libraries, public, governmental, institutional and private."

In 1933 the State Library was more or less looked upon as the solution to the various proposals for library cooperation. It is not quite clear what the Conference, or Ferguson and later Stirling, meant by a central library. Was it to be the central library for their proposed public library system with secondary (six in all) and subordinate centres (magisterial seats) attached to it? or was it the National library Ferguson suggested and what we today understand by a national library in the sense that it is the nation's national library for all people and all libraries and not just an administrative centre for public libraries? or was it as Stirling termed it, a central (students) library for South Africa? were these after all the same thing? The Union Government did not accept the Carnegie Corporation's offer (Ferguson's report) of a 50% subsidy towards the establishment of a national central library for the wide all-embracing national library system, but did agree that the State Library should function as a central (lending) library for the Union. Nowhere is any library proclaimed by law to be the national library of South Africa.

The next official move of the Union Government towards co-operation was embodied in the 1937 report of the Inter-departmental Committee on the Libraries of the Union of South Africa when it stated:

"15. *National Library Board:*

The Committee recommends the appointment by the Union Government of a *National Library Board* to advise it on matters affecting the organization and co-ordination of the library system of the country as a whole. The Board might be expected to submit annually to the Minister concerned a general review of the library position in the

Union, accompanied by such recommendations as it may think fit, and to deal with questions referred to it by the Minister. It is suggested that the Board consist of five members, including two librarians. It will probably be found sufficient for the Board to meet once a year"[5].

The most important co-operative movement of the Government was no doubt the inception of the four Provincial Library Services as from 1944, and of later date the school libraries and the 104 Governmental departmental libraries. In the field of bibliographical organisation various libraries and the South African Library Association have contributed their share. These co-operative movements are too well-known to be emphasized.

The 1959 Library Picture different to Pre-War Picture:

Since 1923 the South African Library picture has changed considerably. We are all familiar with the phenomenal development since the War. Public libraries have become one of the most important cultural, intellectual and educational agencies in our society, with an annual budget of approximately two million pounds. They have become so important that one of our prominent writers recently stated that the Public Library system in South Africa are causing the greatest cultural revolution of the 20th century in South Africa. Our school libraries are becoming the heart of our formal educational system which is emphasizing differential education more and more. Never before has the need for library services to the Coloured and the Bantu been more urgent and pressing than now. Our two "national" libraries are accused of being at the bottom of the list in terms of world standards for national libraries - naturally only because of the lack of funds and a proper library system.

Our University libraries are accused by nearly every visiting educationalist of being below par. Our departmental libraries are at the beginning of new developments on account of the Wiesner report being implemented. South Africa's library Renaissance is well on its way. Times have changed for libraries in South Africa - as for so many other elements of South African life.

(To be continued)

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(5) Union of South Africa, *Report of the Interdepartmental Committee on the libraries of the Union of South Africa*, 1937. (Cape Town : Cape Times, 1937). p. 23.

'N TYDPERK VAN STABILISASIE

* Abraham de Vries.

Vir die doel van hierdie artikel is dit nodig dat n mens eers vooraf die kulturele standaarde van die platteland bespreek, waar ons biblioteekdiens tot dusver sy grootste inslag het. Miskien moet n mens dit ook eerder n bespreking van die leefwyse en die agtergrond noem, waarteen die biblioteek as nuwigheid gesien moet word. *

Oorwegend, sou n mens kan sê, is ons plattelandse kultuur introvert van karakter. Indien daar iets soos n ekstroverte kultuur kan bestaan, vind ons dit in die gebiede rondom die stad en in die stad self. Ek sou geneig wees om laasgenoemde in te skakel by beskawing en die kultuur uit te los, want die skeiding is dft: in soverre die denke oorheers, die kop om dit nou maar in n simbool te stel, oor die hart, kry ons beskawing - wat kultuurloos kan wees - terwyl, indien ons kry dat die hele bestaan in die grootste mate deur gevoel, „sentiment" en telkense waardebepalings in die lig van die reeds gekende getakseer word, kry ons kultuur.

By die laasgenoemde sou ek die grootste gedeelte van ons platteland inskakel. Laat ons n voorbeeld noem. In, sê maar die Paarl, sal n boer elke twee jaar n nuwe motor koop, omdat daardie motor vir hom net gebruikswaarde het en niks meer nie. Op die platteland verder weg sal ons kry dat die motor amper deel van die gesin word, indien n mens dit só kan noem. Kortliks, dit word vir sy waarde nie alleen afhanklik van die inruilprys nie, maar verkry ook waarde, toegedig vanuit die hele „huishouding" waarvan dit deel vorm. n Mens sou kon sê dat die beterweterige kop hier nie tot sy reg kom nie (want soos die Paarlse boer maak, is miskien ekonomies gesproke die voordeligste) maar dat die hart hier n waardeoorhand verkry. Gemeet aan die finansiële maatstaf moet ons dus toegee dat die groot mate van konserwatisme van die platteland n remskoen aan die vooruitgang, aan die industrialisasie is. Immers is die wagwoord van industrialisasie DOELTREFFENDHEID, en n nuwe motor sal seker doeltreffender wees as n jaar of vyf terug se model!

Ons moet dit egter as feit aanvaar dat ons in ons land te doen het met hierdie geestesgesteltheid, dat dit bestaan, en dat die sterkste daarvan nog op die platteland aangetref word. Dat daar n ontwikkeling in die ander rigting is, is waarneembaar en die stof vir n groot roman, maar dit val buite die bestek van hierdie artikel.

Goed, in watter lig kom die biblioteekdiens nou?

In die eerste plek kom dit as nuwigheid. Nuwigheid vir die mense wat nou daar kan gaan boeke uitneem en lees, nuwigheid ook vir die ere-bibliotekaris en die lede van die komitee, want die aansien wat hierdie poste bied, het hul waarde in n gemeenskap.

Tweedens, en miskien met die openingsrede, kom die doelstelling van hierdie diens. Maar ook as nuwigheid. Dit is alleen wanneer hierdie doelstellings in die praktyk vorm aanneem, wanneer die mense die waarde self besef dat die nuwigheid oorgaan en dat die biblioteek in werklikheid n ingeburgerde deel van die samelewing word. As sodanig kan dit van sy voortbestaan verseker wees. En as sodanig alleen. Koöperatiewe verenigings, fabrieke, selfs padmotordienste - noem maar op - het hierdie weg gevolg. Sommige het uitgesak, ander het hul plek bly behou.

* *Mnr. A.H. de Vries is Redakteur van „Die Kaapse Bibliotekaris".*

Wesentlik is hierdie kultuur nie oop vir nuwe gedagtes, nuwe waardes, nuwe organisasies, ensomeer nie, maar geslot, konserwatief. En daarin lê in n groot mate ook die waarde hiervan. Daarom dat ek dit reg aan die begin introspektief genoem het.

Ek kan hier nie help om aan godsdienstige sektes te dink nie. Hulle woed vir n jaar of ses maande, laat hul spore, maar verdwyn omdat die lewe sy gang gaan soos vantevore. Alleen dit wat waarde het, word in hierdie gang opgeneem en word blywend.

Dat toestande verander, is n feit. Natuurlik sal dieselfde gemeenskap wat tien jaar vantevore hand en tand baklei het teen n koöperasie - ek noem maar n voorbeeld - tien jaar later kom en een uit eie geledere stig wat blywend sal wees.

Maar hierdie tydperk tussenin - die tydperk tussen die eerste nuwigheid en die waardebesef wat dan ook die behoefte meebring - dit is die tydperk wat ek die tydperk van stabilisasie sou wou noem. En hier spesifiek met verwysing na die biblioteekdiens.

Tot hiertoe is die uitbreiding komeetgewyse - volgens syfers en statistieke. Dit sal nog so aanhou ook vir n ruk. Maar n versadigingspunt moet bereik word. En daarna sal die tydperk van stabilisasie wees. Dit is alreeds kenbaar by die depots en die biblioteke wat heel eerste aangesluit het.

Vind u byvoorbeeld nog dat al die depots in u streek dieselfde ywer aan die dag lê as die eerste twee, drie keer toe die bus daar omgekom het. Vind u nog dat al die openbare biblioteke dieselfde mate van ywer aan die dag lê met uitstallings, filmvertonings, ensomeer? Of is daar sekere sentra wat die tou n bietjie slap laat hang? As u nie van sodanige plekke weet nie, kan ek vir u opnoem.

Dit moet verwag word. Dit sal gebeur dat daar sekere plekke is wat sal uitsak, nie meer met soveel dryfkrag die mas sal opkom nie. Dit is in hierdie plekke waar u profesionele kennis u net soveel sal baat as n plattelandse dokter se mediese kennis vir hom werd is. Noodsaaklik is dit, maar nie deurslaggewend nie. In n groot mate is die sleutelwoord vir hierdie stabilisasieperiode: BEGRIP. Die wete dat dit sal en moet kom en die insien van die redes waarom dit so sal wees. U ere-bibliotekaresse mag miskien in alle menslikheid insien dat die biblioteekideaal nie haar ideaal ook is nie. Die skoolhoof mag miskien vervang word en die nuwe een mag nie dieselfde ywer aan die dag lê as die vorige een nie. Die nuwigheid sal met ander woorde afskilfer en plek maak óf vir n belangloosheid óf vir n besef van die inherente waarde.

En daardie besef van waardes sal nie u besef van waardes wees nie. Die belangstellings sal nie u belangstellings wees nie. Die biblioteek sal met ander woorde nie heeltemal wees wat u dit wil hê nie. Dis die praktyk se hoeke daardie wat die wolleriqheid van die ideale afskilfer tot iets meer wesentlik.

Wesentlik? Sou u vra of die aanvraag vir goedkoop romannetjies ooit iets wesentlik meer kan beteken as n verrotte besef van waardes? Indien u daardie vraag stel, moet u eers u eie waardebepalings netjies rangskik en nagaan wat hul waarde is. Lees u miskien Tolstoy en vergeet oormôre of Anna Karenina die naam is van n boek wat u gelees het of n lid van een van die biblioteekkomitees nie? Hou u nie miskien n toespraak voor die een of ander vereniging, slaan n hele aantal werke daaroor na, en voel aan die einde van die aand so n

halfpad leë gevoel in u, alhoewel u toespraak met baie groot applous aanvaar is nie? Praat u nie miskien partymaal met die idees en gedagtes van die boeke wat u gelees het nie? Gaan maar na. In al hierdie gevalle stel ek voor u lees liewer n snertromannetjie en vergeet die hoë ideale van kuns en kultuur. Want kultuur kan alleenlik dit wees wat uit die mens en uit die mens se diepste behoeftes kom. Dit is nooit die een of ander vorm van vertoon nie, hoe goed die vertoon ook al bedoel mag wees.

n Besef van die gedifferensieerdheid van waardes - van plek tot plek en van persoon tot persoon - dit is nodig.

Indien dit dan nog vir tien jaar n ideaal bly dat die mense 50% fiksie en 50% nie-fiksie lees, laat dit so bly. Ons wil eerder n kerngesonde gemeenskap bou as n „kultuurbewuste" klomp napraters. Stop Tant Sannie n kookboek in die hand, ja, maar neem dit maar vir lief as jy by haar huis kom, lekker karringmelkbeskuit kry, en vind die boek dien as opstopmiddel vir n holgesitte stoel. En besef ook terselfdertyd jy het haar een boek wat sy lus het om te lees tussen die hoenders se kosgeetyd en die tyd wanneer sy moet begin kosmaak vir die aandete, te min gegee. As jy weet sy soek resepte om uit te hang vir haar man se verjaarsdag is dit n ander saak. Dan het die boek vir haar waarde. Haar waardes verskil van u waardes, sy van u, elke biblioteknris van elke lid van die publiek wat die biblioteek besoek. Dit is maar al wat ek met hierdie lawwe voorstelling wil sê.

Sonder n besef hiervan kan die tydperk van stabilisasie soms die tydperk beteken waarin n teenbeweging uitgelok word by mense. Probeer dit verhoed.

Miskien het Saroyan tog reg as hy sê: „You must live the world with humour".

Dit veronderstel begrip, kennis - en liefde.

IN SEARCH OF NAPOLEON

To me, as to many others, Napoleon was a nebulous historical figure who sprang ready-made into the French revolution, to disperse "with a whiff of grapeshot" an unruly Paris mob. He was a military genius who subjugated most of the European countries; a dictator who overthrew monarchies and made kings; a perfect foil for Nelson's naval battles and Wellington's military strategy and someone who was at last conquered by the terrible Russian winter and ended his life ignominiously on the island of St. Helena. School history did not introduce Napoleon as a man but as a military machine, not as a person but as a force; not as a hero but as a dictator who met with a dictator's destiny in the end.

Then I began reading the historical novels. Now Napoleon emerged as something more than a person and my concept of him swung to the other extreme. Here was a romantic figure with terrific charm, a forceful personality who combined love and adventure with satisfying nicety and whose heart sometimes ruled his head. A new Napoleon swam into my orbit trailing a cloud of glory and the bare facts of history were clothed in a mist of romance.

Finally I found biographies, and yet another character resulted. Here was to be found the real Napoleon, the boy who was born and grew up on the unsettled island of Corsica. The child who imbibed notions of freedom with his mother's milk, acquired grandiose visions whilst yet an impoverished cadet in a military academy in France, and hitched his wagon to a star when he found himself, willi-nilly, the head of a horde of indigent Bonapartes. Now one realised that Napoleon was not so much a genius as an energetic, dynamic, individual who found himself ready to seize the opportunity which history had presented. The knowledge of his early life clarified his career, the realisation that he felt himself to be a man of destiny explained his high handed actions. A complex character of a hundred facets was now revealed.

If you want to discover Napoleon you can read, as I have just done, the history book, the romantic novel, the biography and the military treatise. You can read of Napoleon the boy and man in *Napoleon 1st* by Albert Guerard. You can find Napoleon the lover in *Napoleon in Love*, and discover how he found time for dalliance amongst the beauties of his day, loving some, desiring some and marrying a couple from expedience. You can read of Napoleon the Egyptologist in *Gods, Graves and Scholars* by Ceram, who was actively interested in excavation and archaeology; of Napoleon the romantic hero in *Desiree* by Annemarie Selinko or the son in *A Swarm of Bees* or as a husband in *The Little Creole* or of any other aspect of his many-sided personality.

And so it continues. Here we have at hand the means of tracing any character to its roots and beginnings. Here in our library we can probe, search, test, investigate, explore and quest after knowledge. We can take any subject, or any person, or any period of history and make a thorough investigation and carry out intensive research. This is what we have gained by having our library depot - this is how we have scored. Can anything be more satisfying or more exciting?

Hon. Librarian.
Syndicate Library Depot.

PLAYS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Libraries and Schools have been asking for plays which can be performed by club members or school children, or which can be read aloud in a play-reading circle. With their wishes in mind we have recently ordered and put into circulation the following titles:-

Beukes, Gerhard J.	Spele vir die Jongspan.	839.36264
Bot, A.K.	Prettige praatstories graadboekie.	839.36264
Bot, A.K.	Prettige praatstories St. I.	839.36264
Bot, A.K.	Prettige praatstories St. II.	839.36264
Bot, A.K.	Prettige praatstories St. III.	839.36264
Bot, A.K.	Prettige praatstories St. IV.	839.36264
Bot, A.K.	Prettige praatstories St. V.	839.36264
Daniell, David S.	Children's Theatre plays.	822.91
Holroyd, G.H., *comp.*	Christmas dramatic book.	822.08
Morison, Dorothy L.	Popspele.	791.53
Peach, L. du G.	Plays for young players.	822.91
Roberts, S.M.	Groen Kombersie.	839.36264
Walsh, Philip	Seventeen younger plays.	822.91

There are complete sets of these plays available now. We have bought as many copies as are necessary to cater for the highest number of players in each book - plus one for the producer, and there are at present six complete sets available for European readers and three for Non-European readers of each of the above titles.

These sets are housed in the Cape Town Central Reference Department and can be requested in the same way as any other book.

We are hoping that librarians will make the existence of these sets known to all their readers so that those who wish to produce a play, or wish to do some play-reading in which each member of the cast has his own book on hand, can make the fullest use of this new service.

Should this venture prove successful we shall make every endeavour to meet further requests from schools and from our reading public.

B.L.

DIE PAROWSE FILMVERENIGING

* A. du Plessis.

Dit is uiters maklik en eenvoudig om n filmvereniging te stig: Jy plaas net n kennisgewing in die biblioteek dat die vereniging op so en so n datum en op so en so n plek gestig sal word. Die saal word oorstroom met belangstellendes, stoele moet ingedra word, en entoesiasme is onkeerbaar ...

Dit het ek in elk geval gedink voor die stigting van die Parowse Filmvereniging.

n Groot, netjiese kennisgewing het veertien dae voor die groot gebeurtenis al in die biblioteek gepryk. Elke moontlike belangstellende persoon is genader oor die saak en talle het hart en mond beloof dat hul daar sou wees en hul vriende sou saambring.

Vol verwagting en entoesiasme het ek die aand by die saal opgedaag. Alles was stil en leeg. Om halfagt (die vasgestelde tyd vir die vergadering) het iemand by die deur ingeloer. Met my beste glimlag was ek dadelik by.

„Meneer, kom u na die vergadering van die Filmvereniging?" het ek hoopvol gevra.

Hy het my aangestaar en gemompel:

„Wat vir n ding is dit? Ek het gedink hier word vanaand n lekker „skopskiet" gewys"!

So teen agtuur se koers was daar veertien mense in die saal, n yl verspreiding oor die 200 sitplekke.

Hoewel ek bitter gefrustreer en teleurgesteld gevoel het, het ek nogtans op die tande gebyt en die voorsitterstoel ingeneem.

„Dames en Here, ons wil vanaand n filmvereniging stig. Die hoofdoel van die vereniging is om aan die lede dokumentêre- en storiefilms van hoogstaande gehalte te vertoon ..."

n Jongman uit die agterbanke het my diskoers onderbreek:

„Meneer, dink u dat ons instaat sal wees om sulke goeie films te neem?" En toe moes ek met n skok uitvind dat die meeste teenwoordiges onder die indruk was dat n fotografiese vereniging gestig sou word!

Ek moes seker so mistroostig gelyk het, dat n ouer man opgestaan en voorgestel het dat ons moet voortgaan met die stigting, hoewel hy nie juis ooroptimisties gelyk het nie. n Bestuur, wat omtrent uit die helfte van die gehoor bestaan het, is toe darem aangestel. Ek was swartgallig omtrent die hele affêre!

Gelukkig het die pessimisme van die eerste aand geswik voor n intense wil om van die vereniging n sukses te maak. Deur harde werk en miskien ook n bietjie geluk, het die Parowse Filmvereniging een van die mees aktiewe verenigings in Parow geword.

.....

Die vereniging staan onder direkte beskerming van die Parowse Biblioteek en die Senior-Bibliotekaris is outomaties sekretaris van die vereniging. Die vereniging streef die volgende doelstellings na:

* *Mnr. du Plessis is Senior Bibliotekaris van Parow Openbare Biblioteek.*

(1) Die Vereniging wil met alle middels tot sy beskikking die belangstelling in die film as sosiale, artistieke, opvoedkundige en kulturele middel opwek;
(2) Die Vereniging wil deur middel van films en deur boekuitstallings oor onderwerpe wat in die films behandel word, trag om n werklike belangstelling in die boek en in die biblioteek aan te wakker.

Aangesien die bestuur aan die begin maar rondgetas het in verband met die doen en late van so n vereniging, is die hulp van die Kaapstadse Filmvereniging ingeroep. Hulle het waardevolle wenke aan die hand gedoen, veral wat betref die administrasie van die vereniging, maar ongelukkig het hul keuse van films oor die algemeen min in die smaak van ons lede geval en was die bestuur dus verplig om maar self die kastaiings uit die vuur te krap.

Ons het met ons lede gesels, ons het die Konsulate van die verskillende lande genader, ons het by die filmoteke van die verskillende oliemaatskappye aangesluit en natuurlik was die films van die Provinsiale Biblioteek ook tot ons beskikking. Ons het hier geprobeer en daar geprobeer, maar op die ou end het almal saamgestem dat ***die films van die Kaapse Provinsiale Biblioteekdiens, wat gehalte en uiterlike toestand betref, kop en skouers bo die ander uitstaan.***

Die Filmvereniging kom elke derde Maandagaand van elke maand byeen. Een maand se vertoning word gewy aan die korter films van dokumentêre aard en met so n groot verskeidenheid as moontlik. Die volgende maand word dan n langer film van hoogstaande gehalte vertoon. Die meeste van hierdie films word verkry van die kommersiële filmverspreiders.

Gedurende die bestaan van ons vereniging is daar al films vertoon wat die vereniging se doelstellings tot sy reg laat kom.

Meer as 80 dokumentêre films is al deur die vereniging vertoon. Volgens die kommentaar van ons lede kan die volgendes as die mees uitstaandes beskou word:

ANGOTEE
(Kanadese Ambassade)

AUSTRALIA'S CORAL WONDERLAND
(Provinsiale Biblioteek)

BEES FOR HIRE
(Provinsiale Biblioteek)

THE CONDEMNED ARE HAPPY
(Provinsiale Biblioteek)

DAYBREAK IN UDI
(Provinsiale Biblioteek)

DREAM OF GREECE
(Provinsiale Biblioteek)

DIE ERSTHMUNG EINER MITTELÄLTERLICHEN STADT
(Provinsiale Biblioteek)

FERDA THE ANT
(Provinsiale Biblioteek)

ORIENTAL BRUSHWORK
(Provinsiale Biblioteek)

PAKISTAN
(Provinsiale Biblioteek)

POWER FOR UGANDA
(Britse Ambassade)

THE PUPPETS OF JIRI TRNKA
(Provinsiale Biblioteek)

THE SALMONS STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL
(Kanadese Ambassade)

SPIDER ENGINEERS
(Provinsiale Biblioteek)

THE WORLD THAT NATURE FORGOT
(Britse Ambassade)

Tussen hakies is die verspreiders van wie hierdie vereniging die betrokke films gekry het.

Met elke vertoning word boeke oor die onderwerpe wat in die films behandel word by die saalingang geplaas. Met belangstelling word die boeke dan deurgeblaai en bespreek. Maar dit gebeur nie dat die lede die biblioteek die volgende dag vir die boeke bestorm nie. Vandat die Vereniging ontstaan het, het die biblioteek slegs enkele, maar besonder aktiewe lesers bygekry. Dit is my oortuiging dat die biblioteek slegs deur gedurige uitstallings en aanhoudende verwysings na die biblioteek vir n lang tydperk die publiek van die biblioteek bewus sal maak. Dit is n langsame proses, hierdie proses van ware opvoeding. Vroeër het ek moedeloos geword as ek swoeg en sweet en die reaksies van die publiek bly negatief. Die ondervinding het my geleer dat, veral in die biblioteekberoep met al die verskillende vertakkinge die volgende spreekwoord uiters waar is: HOE MEER HAAS HOE MINDER SPOED!

GOOD READING TASTE NEEDED, WRITER SAYS

The need for censorship would largely fall away if people learnt to cultivate a good taste in literature and in turn passed this on to their children, Mrs. Audrey Blignaut, the well-known Afrikaans writer, told the D.R.C. Women's Auxillary Congress in Cape Town yesterday.

Mrs. Blignaut dealt particularly with the importance of good literature in the lives of children.

Everyone, said Mrs. Blignaut, realized the evils of undesirable literature which is aimed at undermining the spiritual values of the community', said Mrs. Blignaut.

Cape Argus, March 17, 1960.

VRIENDE, BIBLIOTEKARESSES EN STILLE WERKERS ....

Aangesien u bibliotekaresse van hierdie depot is, mevrou, sal dit van u verwag word om die boeke op die rakke in orde te hou. Fiksie alfabeties volgens skrywer. Nie-fiksie numeries volgens die Dewey-nommer. Dan moet u natuurlik nog die kinderboeke eenkant hou. Fiksie alfabeties en Nie-Fiksie numeries. U moet die uitreikingstelsel hou presies soos ek dit aan u verduidelik het. U moet toesien dat die lesers hul boeke betyds terugbring en hulle beboet as hulle dit nie doen nie. Die lidmaatskapregister moet ook in orde gehou word. Ja, en dan moet u tog toesien dat die maandstatistieke korrek aangegee is (anders stuur ek hom sommer terug) en dat dit voor die sewende van elke maand by my kantoor ingedien word.

Ja, ons verwag van u dat u die depot na die beste van u vermoë sal administreer, mevrou. Die boekevoorraad moet goed versorg word. Asseblief, geen probleemboeke nie. U moet ook toesien dat stukkende boeke met die volgende toer van die bus teruggegee word. En as ons boeke kom terugneem, moet die lys korrek wees. As dit nie so is nie, sal ons dit gou agterkom, want ons kontroleer die lys sorgvuldig. Ons lyste? Nee, mevrou, u moet maar eenvoudig aanneem dat hulle korrek is. En as u u naam geteken het, is dit natuurlik u verantwoordelikheid. As daar boeke weg is, moet die komitee vergoed. U sien, ons kom hou elke jaar n voorraadopname. En elke drie maande kom hou ek hier by u depot inspeksie en lewer dan verslag aan die Senior Bibliotekaris.

U moet tog onthou om Die Kaapse Bibliotekaris elke maand onder komiteelede te laat sirkuleer, mevrou. Dit is nodig dat hulle dit elke maand sal lees. En u natuurlik ook. (U hoef nie my nonsies te lees nie. Lees maar wat mnr. Friis en dié mense skryf). Dan sal dit ook goed wees as u die verkorte Dewey, wat ek u gegee het n bietjie sal bestudeer, sodat u darem die hoofklasse kan ken.

Ja, en amper vergeet ek. U moet tog dat die mense gebruik maak van spesiale aanvrae. U moet aan die begin van elke maand die aanwinslyste so n bietjie bestudeer en kyk watter nuwe titels aangekoop is. Ek wil graag sien dat aan die einde van elke jaar daar sommer bladsye en bladsye tot die spesiale aanvraag-register toegevoeg is. U moet natuurlik ook onthou om my altyd van afskrifte van die notules van komiteevergaderings te voorsien.

Betaling, mevrou? Nee, mevrou, u kry geen betaling nie. U moet dit alles maar sommer so by u daagliksé werk doen. U sien, mevrou, dit is n diens wat u aan die gemeenskap lewer. U moet dit doen uit liefde vir die saak. U moet die publiek se leeslus aanwakker. U moet die mense biblioteekbewus maak. U depot moet die kultuursentrum van die gemeenskap wees.

Hoeveel lede het die depot, mevrou? 200? Wel, wel, wel, dit is meer as baie Openbare Biblioteke. Maar soos ek sê, mevrou, word u nie vergoed nie. U moet die doen omdat u n begeerte voel om te dien. U moet gewillig wees om op te offer. U sien, die sukses van die Diens (en die kanse dat die Streekbibliotekaris promosie kry) hang uiteindelik af van wat u en u kollegas kan verrig. En weet u, mevrou, daar is, behalwe u, nog honderde wat dieselfde werk doen. En vir almal is dit liefdesdiens. Nie-Blankes? Wel, hulle word meestal bedien deur leerkragte wat dit na skoolure doen. Nee, hulle word ook nie vergoed nie, mevrou. U naam is selfs nie eens oral in my streek bekend

nie. Maar terwyl ek die stuur van die skip is, is u die skroef wat die skip aan die loop hou.

O ja, mevrou, en ek wou nog dit gevra het. U sien, as ons op toer gaan, kan ons dit nie altyd so reël dat ons by hotelle kan oornag nie? Is dit vir u moontlik?... nou ja maar baie dankie, mevrou, baie dankie! Baie dankie ook vir die tee en koek, mevrou, en vir die smaaklike ete van vanmiddag. (Jammer dat ons laat was, maar die bus het n bietjie moeilikheid gegee langs die pad). n Groot hoera vir sulke gasvryheid! Nog n hoera vir depots en hulle komitees! En drie hoera's vir depotbibliotekarisse en - bibliotekaresses!

C. S. Kotzé.

VERSENDING VAN FILMS

As gevolg van die baie kere wat biblioteke moeilikheid ondervind het met die terugsending van films wat meer as 11 lb. weeg aan die filmoteke, is vertoë in dier voege aan die poskantoor gerig. Hulle antwoord soos volg:

1. In antwoord op u brief, verwys no. BD. van 16 Februarie 1960, moet ek u meedeel dat daar geen beswaar is teen die versending van pakkette bevattende films wat meer as 11 lb. weeg en wat deur u kantoor of leners van sulke films gepos word nie.

2. n Paslike kennisgewing in hierdie verband sal binnekort in die Possirkulêre verskyn.

3. Graag wil ek u aandag daarop vestig dat leners wat nie frankeerbeamptes is nie, die posgeld verskuldig op die terugstuur van die pakkette moet betaal.

HIER WORD STUKKE VIR VERHOOG GETOETS

Een van die nuttigste sake vir n toneelonderneming of selfs die toneelskrywer is n plek waar die reaksies van n gehoor op n nuwe stuk getoets kan word - n soort toneellaboratorium, as n mens dit só wil noem. So n plek het die N.T.O. nou ook in Kaapland gekry.

Lesers van hierdie rubriek sal hulle miskien herinner dat n kollega nie te lank gelede nie, maar darem nog vóór die somervakansie, geskryf het oor die indrukke van n gehoor op Sartre se stuk No Exit.

Dit was nou wel in daardie besondere geval nie baie tipiese reaksies nie, maar dit was dan ook baie besondere omstandighede. Daardie artikel en n reaksie wat later van Robertson in die korrespondensiekolom van Die Burger verskyn het, het my nuuskierig gemaak oor die moontlikhede van so n spellesing.

Verlede Saterdagaand het ek toe in die nuwe openbare biblioteek in Wynberg - vlak by Maynardville - n spellesing van dié stuk deur dieselfde groep spelers bygewoon.

Dit was n verbasend interessante ervaring.

Wat my allereers getref het, was die betreklik groot gehoor wat by die biblioteek opgedaag het om dié spellesing by te woon.

Alles was baie informeel. Daar is natuurlik geen décor aanwesig nie. Die spelers is nie gegrimeer of in kostuum nie. Hulle kom gewoon op - ná die kort verduideliking wat mnr. Laurie van der Merwe van die Wes-Kaaplandse streekkantoor van die N.T.O. gegee het - en begin, met hul boeke in die hand, die stuk lees.

En vóór n mens jou kom kry, is die byna volmaakte illusie van die toneel daar, word jy geboei deur die menslike verhoudinge, bowenal - in dié besondere stuk - deur die aangrypende en vooruitsiglose tragedie van n hel wat nie met swael, rook en vuur tot uitdrukking kom nie, maar wat die private hel is wat in elke menslike gemoed opgesluit lê.

Chris van den Berg was n besonder sardonies en lakoniese helse bode, en hy en Laurie van der Merwe as Garcin, s.g. pasifis, wat met tien koeëlgate deur sy lyf vir sy lafheid moes boet, het dan ook dadelik kontak met mekaar en met die gehoor gemaak.

Met die binnekoms, eers van die lesbiese vrou Inez, voortreflik gelees deur Ruth Abramowitz, en later van die kokette Estelle, eweneens goed gelees deur Linda Delport, het Sartre se besondere opvatting van n hel tot volleidge ontplooing gekom.

GEEN UITGANG

Daar was inderdaad geen uitgang vir alle ewigheid uit dié sitkamer in die prullerige styl van die Tweede Keiserryk gemeubileer nie; dié drie sou mekaar kwel en pla en verpes omdat hulle met fyne berekening deur hoër magte - Sartre se gebruik van die begrip „hulle" het iets ironies! - geheel en al onversoenbaar is!

Die reaksies van die gehoor, wat weldra afsonderlik en gesamentlik elkeen in sy eie private helletjie gesit het, was n doodse, maar gespanne stilte wat eers verbreek is met die bespreking wat onmiddellik ná die laaste woord gevolg het.

Dit was duidelik dat dié stuk reeds in n gevorderde stadium verkeer. Van

tyd tot tyd is bladsye oorgeslaan omdat die spelers reeds die woorde geken het.

Maar dit was ook duidelik uit die reaksies dat dié stuk in hoë mate afhanklik is van die onmiddellike kontak van n klein intieme verhoog.

Sulke werkplase bou groot moontlikhede in vir die toneel. Noudat die N.T.O. en die Provinsiale Biblioteekdiens gereeld op dié manier gaan saamwerk - ook op die platteland - word vir die toekoms van die toneelkuns gebou op n wyse wat nog nooit vantevore moontlik was nie.

W. E. G. L.

Die Burger, Januarie 1960.

COLOURED PEOPLE ARE AVID LIBRARY USERS

Coloured people in the Peninsula are rapidly becoming the most avid library users in South Africa. Their membership, especially among children, is increasing much faster than the membership of European libraries, and they are reading about 700,000 books a year.

The 17 libraries provided for them by the Cape Town City Libraries are considered some of the best-equipped and best-run in the Union.

The facilities are as good and often better than those offered in the city's European libraries. Each library has its own reading section and reference library and its own children's library. Every book published in the Union is made available.

Their thirst for knowledge and good literature is making such demands that four libraries have been opened in Athlone alone. All are staffed and run by non-Europeans.

387 BORROWED

Yesterday a *Cape Times* reporter visited the non-European libraries at Kensington, Athlone and Retreat with the City Librarian, Mr. B. Hood.

The librarian of a Coloured mobile library at Claremont said that in 3½ hours yesterday 387 books had been borrowed by members.

"Generally their tastes in literature are exactly the same as those of European members", Mr. Hood said.

But the tastes of the younger generation were more serious; they not only wanted the best novels, but were keen readers of history, pholosophy and scientific and technical books.

POOREST AREAS

In the Kensington and Athlone libraries yesterday afternoon scores of young Coloured children were eagerly browsing through the bookshelves.

Nearly every afternoon in some of the poorest areas, there is a queue for knowledge and their tastes appear to be catholic: Art, travel, science, science fiction, music, religion, biographies and serious novels.

At Athlone there was a barefoot boy of about 14 scowling at a biography of Mozart. There were others about the same age running their eyes critically over the reference shelves.

Non-European members of the City Libraries are also able to borrow long-playing records and art prints.

Cape Times, 26 November 1959.

NEWS *From the Regions*

CALVINIA:

Ja, dit is mos weer skrikkeljaar en gevolglik kan n mens enigiets verwag-- selfs nuus uit Calvinia-Streek!

Gedurig het ons maar gelees van nuwe biblioteke wat in ander streke geopen is, en dan moet ons maar weer swyg, want ons kan nog nie saam gesels nie. Dit word maar net met n mate van jaloersheid gelees. In elk geval, sake lyk darem nou al belowend as daar gesien word dat Calvinia se munisipaliteit hard besig is om n ou gebou te sloop, wat moet plek maak vir een van die toekomstige spoggeboue van die dorp. Die tenders vir die nuwe biblioteek het alreeds gesluit en volgens die Stadsklerk moet die gebou op 14 Desember 1960 gelewer word. Voorwaar n gawe Kersgeskenk!

Dieselfde hoop bestaan ook op Carnarvon, aangesien die Stadsklerk alreeds navraag gedoen het in verband met planne. Hul het nou wel nog nie so ver gevorder soos Calvinia nie, maar waar n rokie trek, moet n vuurtjie brand.

As die heersende droogte-toestande in ag geneem word, is dit met bewondering dat daar gelet word op die mate van uitbreiding wat nog in omliggende dorpe in die streek plaasvind. Geld is wel n luukse artikel, maar ondernemingsgees is tog nog nie gedemp nie. So bv. is Loeriesfontein hard besig om ook meer „lig op die onderwerp te werp", en hul kan al spog met n elektrisiteitskema wat redelik ver gevorder het. Brandvlei is hul wel voor in dié opsig dat hul skema al reeds voltooi is, maar ons sien uit na die volgende verbeterings; of dit nie moontlik n nuwe biblioteek wil insluit nie!

Om nou weer terug te kom na die sosiale sy van die lewe: mej. C. van Wyk, ons biblioteek-assistente, staan vanaf 4 Januarie af bekend as mev. C. van Rhyn.

Ten laaste net n waarskuwing aan ander streekbibliotekarisse om tog net nie n swart stasiewa soos Calvinia Streek aan te skaf nie. U sal miskien wil weet waarom dan nie. Wel, nou eendag toe die stasiewa weer van die motorhawe kom, waar dit so pas netjies gepolitoer is, keer n persoon die bestuurder voor en wil ewe ernstig weet wie dan daardie dag oorlede is dat die lykswa weer in die dorp gesien is! Met n sedige gesig moes die bestuurder antwoord dat dit die Biblioteekdiens se stasiewa is.

N.S. Indien die nuus maar n bietjie droog voorkom, moet u maar net onthou dat dit uit n droë wêreld kom, en ons maar aanpas by die omgewing!

J.G.H. Hill.

GEORGE:

Joubertina se vertraagde opening het toe op die 30ste Januarie plaasgevind. Vir die gemeenskap het dit beslis geloon om n bietjie langer te wag, want sodoende het hulle n besonder aantreklike biblioteek gekry. Trouens, daar is baie dorpe wat Joubertina hierdie biblioteek sal beny, want dit is voorwaar iets om op trots te wees.

Natuurlik kom só n biblioteek nie sommer vanself tot stand nie. Om van meet af te begin, vereis inisiatief - en dit is wat hier aan die dag gelê is. Die Dorpsbestuur het n vorige N.G. Kerkkoshuis aangekoop en dit netjies opgeknap, sodat dit tans soos n nuwe gebou daar uitsien. Maar die Dorpsbestuur se skouers was n bietjie te smal vir die volle geldelike verantwoordelik vir die tot standbringing van die biblioteek.

Dit is gelukkig dat Joubertina toe oor n man soos mnr. R.P. Oelofson beskik het. Onder sy leiding is hier hard gewerk. Funksies is gereël om n fonds op te bou. Die gemeenskap en die boere van die Laer-Langkloof het gewilliglik hul deel bygedra.

Mnr. Oelofson het self na Port Elizabeth gery om die hout te gaan uitsoek. Daardie rit moes hy baie kere herhaal, want mnr. Oelofson glo klaarblyklik daarin dat as n mens iets onderneem, jy dit goed moet doen. Twee onderwysers, mnre. T. Snyman en B.G. Vosloo het hierna ingespring en die meubels gemaak - en netjieser kon niemand anders dit gemaak het nie.

Die aand voor die amptelike opening het Joubertina geskiedenis gemaak. Dit het die eerste biblioteek geword, waar n sangeres, Vesta Oelofson, n program ter aanvulling van die amptelike opening gelewer het.

Die volgende oggend is daar haastig en met groot geheimsinnigheid n plaat teen die muur van die biblioteek aangebring. Die doek was nou wel n bietjie dun, maar ek glo dat die bewoording tog later met die onthulling as n verrassing vir mnr. Oelofson gekom het.

Belangstellendes het die projeksie/lesingkamer gevul om na die toesprake, gelewer deur Ds. C.J. Bester en die Direkteur van Biblioteekdiens, te luister. Hierna is na die stoep verdaag, waar mnr. I.M. Kritzinger die plaat onthul het. Hierop is die goeie werk van mnr. Oelofson deur n dankbare gemeenskap met dié woorde verewig: *Met dankbare erkentlikheid aan mnr. R.P. Oelofson.*

By hierdie geleentheid het mnr. Oelofson hulde gebring aan verskeie staatmakers, onder andere die sekretaresse van die Dorpsbestuur, mev. D. Goosen.

(Ja, in die woorde van een van die Biblioteekdiens se personeel, „Ons het op baie plekke n mnr. Oelofson nodig.")

Mev. N.E. Snyman het sommer dieselfde oggend haar pligte as bibliotekaresse begin. Die belofte is daar dat op Joubertina n goeie biblioteekdiens verskaf sal word.

A.P. Roux.

KLEURLINGBIBLIOTEEK - VRYBURG:

Op Donderdag 28 Januarie het die Waaksaamheidskomitee van die Kleurlinggemeenskap van Vryburg n dag beleef waarna hulle lank uitgesien het. Soos n onderwyser, mnr. Blignaut, dit gestel het; hulle het bereik waarna hulle gestreef het in hul leuse, *Kortvat om vas te vat en kort-kort vervat om vaster te vat!* Ook die Stadsklerk, mnr. Venter, het gesê dit lyk asof daar geen einde aan die versoeke was nie. Hulle was soos n driehoek. As een kant „afgeskud" is, is daar nog altyd twee ander. En so het dit aangehou, totdat hy £228 kon saam-

skraap om rakke te koop. Maar die ding het darem nie net van sy kant, die „pivot" soos die voorsitter van die Waaksaamheidskomitee hom genoem het, gekom nie. Nee, die komitee het self n lokaal langs die Metodiste kerk gekry en laat opknap. Die saak kom dus nou al van drie kante af.

Boonop is hierdie biblioteek n deel van n tradisie. Die huidige skool het hier begin en uit die mond van mnr. De Wahl moes ons verneem dat dit die skool was in Kaapland, wat die gouste uitgebrei het van n Laerskool na n Hoërskool.

Ook die Indiërgemeenskap werk saam. As blyk van agting het hulle n drie volume Koran aan die biblioteek geskenk, asook die tafels en die stoele.

Na die opening, toe begin is met die inskrywing van lede en hulle begin het om boeke uit te neem, is die opmerking gehoor *What a wonderful selection of books!* En so van „selection" gepraat: dit was interessant om te sien hoeveel vakliteratuur uitgeneem word. Ek skat goed vyftig persent!

Mag hierdie biblioteek dan ook n magtige instrument word vir selfopvoeding, en ons wens mej. Moorcroft alle sukses toe. Sy moes alreeds die ure vermeerder!

A.P. Duvenage.

NUUSFLITSE UIT:

GARIES

Nadat die oorspronklike ameublement van die Openbare Biblioteek verwerk is om aan te pas by die standaarde van die Diens, is die lokale uitgeskilder in moderne sagte kleure. Die ameublement is ook nuut geskilder om aan te pas by die kleurskemas. Ek dink mnr. J. Geldenhuys, die plaaslike Bibliotekaris, en die leserpubliek van Garies sal met my saamstem dat hierdie aantreklikker Biblioteek-atmosfeer positiewe resultate moet en sal toon!

LAMBERTSBAAI

Gedurende Februarie is die Streekbibliotekaris genader in sake boekuitstallings by n V.L.V.-tentoonstelling, wat aldaar gehou is. n Aantal uitstallings, verteenwoordigend verskillende onderwerpe, is gedoen, wat groot belangstelling by die publiek uitgelok het.

Mag ons hierdeur daarin geslaag het om by een en elkeen wat teenwoordig was, opnuut die funksie en waarde van die biblioteek te beklemtoon.

IS DIT OOK U MENING?

DIE AFRIKANER EN DIE BOEK

Sonder om onnodige pessimisties te wees, is daar iets in ons volkslewe wat hinder. Dis ons leesgewoontes. In Die Burger van 19 Oktober het ene mnr. J.J. Human n artikel geskryf „Hoekom koop so min Afrikaner ooit n boek?" Iets in dieselfte trant het reeds in die Huisgenoot verskyn. J.J. Human sê:

> „Verskeie redes is aangegee waarom die Afrikaanse boek nie verkoop nie; daar is baie ander vorme van vryetydbesteding soos die bioskoop, sport, tydskrifte, die radio, ens.
>
> Hoe wettig hierdie argumente ook al mag klink, die feit staan vas dat dit eweveel van toepassing is op ons Engelssprekende medeburgers en op elke ander land in die wêreld. Dieselfde geld vir biblioteke, die gebrek aan vrye tyd en ander dergelike argumente. Hoewel dit verklaar waarom mense nie voortdurend boeke lees nie, verklaar dit nie die abnormale lae verkoopsyfer in ons land nie. Ons moet die argument dus verwerp".

Ons kan nie anders as om saam te stem nie. Boonop is tyd wel daar, maar dit hang van ons waarde-oordeel af hoe ons die 12-uur tot ons beskikking gaan indeel. Maar n goeie boek lees? Nooit! Ek praat nie nou van pornografie nie, ek praat van boeke vir algemene kennis - Lawrence Green, gedigte, W.A. de Klerk, ens. As ons lees, dan is dit vir *ontspanning* en dan glo ons dit moet n *storie* wees. So gaan waardevolle tyd om met beuselaltigheid. Ons leesgewoonte is verkeerd.

Baie maal bestaan dit nie. Hoe baie maal moes ek nie al hoor: „Man, ek glo mens moet werk" of: „van baie lees kom raserny" nie. Daar is meer dergelikes. Ek neem die mense nie kwalik nie, maar dit is darem n baie ongelukkige opvatting. Dit is negatief. Ons kort gedagtes en idees. En lees is die enigste wat help. Dit help ook in die Godsdiens, in jou geloofslewe. Dit omlyn jou staanplek in die lewe en ook dié van jou medemens. Dit maak ons diensbaar.

Sal ons dit ander kry? Ek meen so. Laat ons mekaar aanraak met die vlam van heilige onrus. Dan is ons vatbaar vir idees en gedagtes.

Die Bondsbode, Januarie 1960.

SPELLESINGS

Ek merk dat ons kollega van George om n volledige artikel oor die teorie van spellesing aandring. En van my kant af wil ek ook sommer dadelik sê, ja, asseblief tog! Want eerlikwaar, vir my is n spellesing n monstrositeit. (Kan nie onthou waar ek die woord gehoor het nie, maar klink altevol geleerd). Waarom n spellesing? Waarom nie maar liewer n volbloed opvoering nie? Of, laat die deelnemers sonder n boek voordra. Waarna lyk dit nou as n verliefde paartjie hul liefde vir mekaar uit boeke staan en voorlees, terwyl hulle darem so af en toe moet opkyk om nie dalk bo van die verhoog af te trap nie?

Die doel van n spellesing is seker in die eerste plek om belangstelling vir die drama as kunsvorm te wek. Voorwaar n prysenswaardige ideaal. Maar met die beste wil ter wêreld kan ek myself nie oortuig dat daardie ideaal op dié wyse verwesenlik word nie. Ek self het onlangs n spellesing bygewoon waarin, terloops, puik amateurspelers opgetree het. Van hul voordrag kan ek alleen

met die hoogste lof praat. En tog was die hele aangeleentheid vir my n skouspel wat soms aan die lagwekkende gegrens het, bv. n man met n rewolwer in sy hand, wat vir die man voor hom allerhande nare dinge uit n boek voorlees, net asof hy nie self aan iets kon dink om te sê nie. Ek is oortuig daarvan dat n opvoering veel meer vrug sou gedra het. Daar moet tog in alle geval vir n dramalesing ook voorbereidings getref word.

Ek is self geweldig geïnteresseerd in drama en dien selfs op die bestuur van n dramavereniging. Miskien moet ek nieteenstaande my bogenoemde onkunde aan n gebrek aan kultuur toeskryf. En dit is daarom dat ek raad vra. Raad, hulp en bystand.

C.S. Kotzé.

BRIEWEBUS

Kollegas,

Wat is vir n kind heerliker as om op n skou rond te dwaal? Pa is by die beoordelaars onder die groot sonsambreel, en Ma skep haar tweehonderdste bak poeding in en beduie met n swaai van n moeë hand dat jy "tog asseblief onder haar voete moet uit".

Van die een kraampie na die ander dus, lek-lek aan jou druppende roomys. Duiwe ..... ou pronkers, hoenders ..... parmantige hane en moederlike vet hennetjies, bondels rottange by die rottangwerk, pampoene en perskes, trosse Kanaäns-druiwe en naaldwerk, n ware koeliewinkel!

Teen middag bak die son so skerp en die kleinspan leuen nou in tamme, uitge-ete, verveelde groepies teen die draadversperrings aan, moeg en tog so lus vir n koel ou sitplekkie - dus Biblioteek toe!

Waar ek vroeg die oggend moedeloos gedink het dat die kinders glad nie belangstel in my Biblioteekhoekie nie, het ek nou begin wonder waar almal gaan sit. Hulle het my toegeval en ewe gou tuis gevoel by hul bekende ou lang tafel vol boekies, hul eie klein stoeltjies en hul eie Tannie wat stories vertel en boekies voorlees.

Dus - al is dit iets vreesliks om vir jou n rustige hoekie uit te spook en al jou aanhangsels reg te kry - dis die moeite werd. Myne was gelukkig in n hoekie van die eetsaal, by die populêre koeldrank-toonbank. n Uiters strategiese plek!

Seker honderde kinders het op een of ander manier bewus geword van die biblioteek en wat van al die grootmense! Veral die verafgeleë plaasmense wat nie so baie dorp toe kom nie.

Ek moes net links en regs nuwe lede inskryf, die skema verduidelik en stories vertel; stories lees en keer dat sommige goedjies nie ons boeke in hul opgewondenheid wegdra nie. Of wil hê Ma moet dit koop nie! Gelukkig dat jy die Junior komitee het om jou af te los vir teepouse en om, as die heerlike storm oor jou kop getrek het, alles weer in orde te bring en te help opruim. Of ek die skou geniet het? Ag gate uit!

M.C. le Roux.

VAN ALLES EN ALMAL

Die Universiteit van Wes-Kaapland benodig stelle van die volgende boeke. Indien daar enige van ons biblioteke, of privaat persone is wat gewillig is om dit permanent aan hulle te leen, te skenk of te verkoop, sal ons bly wees indien u ons daarvan kan laat weet.

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Hansard	: Transvaal tot 1910.
Hansard	: Unie-parlement van 1910.

FRIERSDALE BIBLIOTEEKDEPOT

Dit is pas n jaar gelede dat die V.L.V.-tak van Friersdale die Streekbibliotekaresse uitgenooi het om hulle toe te spreek in verband met die Provinsiale Biblioteekdiens.

Die dames het dadelik aan die werk gespring en mnr. Van Niekerk het aan hulle n vertrekkie aan sy winkel afgestaan, wat dien as biblioteek. Uit die fondse wat die V.L.V. tot hulle beskikking gehad het, is die vertrekkie afgewit en n tapyt en twee rakke gekoop.

Op 24 April het die Streekpersoneel die boeke kom aflaai en op die rakke georden. Nadat daar heerlik gesmul is aan die lekker koek en tee, het die eerste lede ingeskryf en sedertdien was daar geen keer aan die inwoners van Friersdale nie. Meer boeke moes voorsien word, en van die boetegeld en bydraes deur die publiek is n derde rak gekoop.

Die depot het reeds 628 boeke en n 100 lesers. In November het die V.L.V. ook registreer as lid van die filmdiens en n geslaagde filmvertoning is gedurende Desember gehou.

Deur hulle aansluiting by die Provinsiale Biblioteekdiens lewer die V.L.V. van Friersdale n diens van onskatbare waarde aan hul gemeenskap. n Soort-

gelyke diens is deur die V.L.V. en Boerevereniging van Boegoeberg begin in Februarie 1959 en daar is reeds 74 lede.

Gordonia Nuus, 12 Februarie 1960.

BIBLIOTEEK VIR KLEURLINGE

Donderdag 28 Januarie, was n Rooiletter-dag in die geskiedenis van die Kleurling-gemeenskap van Vryburg. By dié geleentheid het die Burgemeester van Vryburg die Biblioteek ge-open, wat deur die ywer van die Waaksaamheidskomitee van die Kleurlinge tot stand gebring is.

In samewerking met die Kaapse Provinsiale Biblioteekdiens en die Munisipaliteit van Vryburg, het n lang-gekoesterde ideaal bewaarheid geword. Die rakke is deur die Munisipaliteit verskaf, terwyl die boeke deur die Biblioteekdiens verskaf is. Die Biblioteekdiens koop al geruime tyd boeke aan om spesiaal aan die leeslus van die nie-blanke bevolking te voorsien. Hierdie biblioteek is een van n tiental vir Kleurlinge wat reeds in Kaapland opgerig is. In Parow is n gebou van £5,000 vir n biblioteek opgerig.

Die Voorsitter van die Waaksaamheidskomitee het dit bestempel as n mylpaal op die pad van opvoeding. In aansluiting hierby het mnr. Jos de Wahl, verteenwoordiger van die Munisipaliteit se komitee vir nie-blanke sake, gesê dat hierdie mylpaal in die ontwikkeling n goeie belegging is. Die skool kan net maar voorberei, terwyl die eintlike opvoeding na skool opgedoen word. Die beste opvoeding wat n mens kan opdoen, is dit wat n mens homself gee. Die biblioteek is die aangewese middel.

Die wens is uitgespreek dat die biblioteek so spoedig te klein sal wees, sodat die Munisipaliteit verplig sal wees om n aparte vertrek te verskaf by die Ontspanningsaal! Die huidige vertrek in die Kerksaal op die hoek van Nelson en McKenziestrate is deur die Waaksaamheidskomitee self skoongemaak.

Waar daar reeds in die geval van die Vryburgse Openbare Biblioteek, byna 50% van die bevolking van die dorp aangesluit het, kan ons met reg groot dinge ook hier verwag.

Die Stellalander, 4 Februarie 1960.

GEORGE HEADING FOR PROVINCIAL LIBRARY

From information furnished by the Town Clerk, it will not be long, before George has a Provincial Library, as the Town Council is conducting negotiations with the Director of the Provincial Library Services who is due to visit George soon.

Contrary to public opinion, the Council has been keen to embark on the Scheme but was worried about the financial implication, to wit, annual payment of 6/- per head per capita of the adult European ratepayers, a £6,000 building and the expense of engaging qualified librarians, and other running charges.

CONCESSIONS

But now that certain concessions are likely to be made by the Provincial Administration in regard to the premises and the staff it is likely the Provincial Library Scheme might still come into operation this year, the inten-

tion being to use the present library building for a start.

That the Council is serious about embarking on this scheme was indicated in the estimates when no provision was made for a grant to the King Edward VIIth Public Library, as in previous years. The Municipal grant enabled the Library to keep going.

The benefits of the Provincial Library Scheme need not be stressed; it has been the experience wherever such a library has been started that the number of readers has increased considerably.

George-Knysna Herold, 19 February 1960.

PERSONALIA

Mnr. A.P. (Duif) Duvenage is op 4 Januarie 1960 aan mej. L. Sieberhagen, verpleegster te Boksburg, verloof. Dit lyk of Duif die eensaamheid van die Kalaharivlaktes in sy streek nie langer alleen kon verduur nie, en ons wil die paartjie baie hartelik geluk wens.

Two young ladies missing: *Miss Bleach* and *Miss Canin* from Audio-Visual. If anyone should find these ladies abroad somewhere please give them our best wishes for a pleasant holiday.

Miss Dullaert has passed the S.A.L.A Intermediate examination after being in the service for two years. This shows you what can be done. Congratulations!

Miss G.D. Smart won the first prize in a competition for selecting the best books published in Afrikaans during 1959. Congratulations - although not a crumb of cake has made its way to my office.

Mej. te Groen, wat in die hospitaal was, herstel op die oomblik by haar huis. Ons wens haar alles van die beste toe en hoop ons sien haar gou weer op kantoor.

Die Malmesbury-streek het n splinternuwe streekbibliotekaris. Stywe lyne, *meneer Burger.*

+ IN MEMORIAM +

Onlangs is twee persone oorlede wat ons Biblioteekdiens baie goed gesind was. Hulle is *mnr. Maeker*, die Voorsitter van die Biblioteekkomitee te Setagoli en *mnr. van der Westhuizen*, onderwyser-bibliotekaris op Kuruman. Aan die naasbestaandes van hierdie persone betuig ons hiermee ons meegevoel.

BOEKBESPREKINGS/BOOK REVIEWS

FICTION

HOWARD, Joyce *Two persons singular.* Macmillan, 1960.

A highly sentimental and yet moving story of a small boy and girl who grow up together in a lodging house. The ending is tragic but not without hope. Although the characters lack subtlety this is a readable and touching novel for the unsophisticated reader.

MACAULAY, Rose *They were defeated.* Collins, 1960.

To admirers of Rose Macaulay her new novel will come as a surprise. It is set in the Seventeenth Century and the characters are poets and scholars, for example Herrick, Suckling and Cowley. Brilliantly written in the dialect of the period, it is a gentle story of a young girl who is taught Latin and Greek and taken to Cambridge by her father. Here she meets the literary lions of the day, and has a tragic love affair. Something out of the ordinary for discriminating borrowers.

J. A.

NIALL, Ian *Tiger walks.* Heinemann, 1960.

A starving Bengal tiger escapes from a circus trailer which is taking it to a seaside town. After killing the two men in charge and terrorising a tiny Welsh village it takes to the hills. Plans to kill it are rapidly made and police and soldiers are supposed to work in close co-operation. Panic is excellently controlled throughout, the characters are well drawn, and the Welsh way of life and humour faithfully portrayed.

J. S.

SAVA, George *Emperor story.* Faber, 1960.

A biographical legens about Alexander I, Tsar of Russia. The author has had no easy task in making the worldly Tsar and the holy man of the legend into one person, but Sava has a sense of the romantic and the dramatic, and the slants on old Russia enchance the local atmosphere. Although it has flaws this is an unusuál and interesting novel.

D. J.

VALE, Eugene *Thirteenth apostle.* Gollancz, 1960.

A provoking, honest and thoughtful novel whose main theme is man's search for a truthful and satisfying way of life. The story deals with an American consul in Central America who is searching for a fellow American, a painter, who has disappeared. There is excitement on both levels.

J. A.

NON-FICTION

HORNEY, Karen *Self-analysis.* Routledge, 1957.

An excellent book for the intelligent layman interested in psychoanalysis and the lines along which it works. There is a complete lack of sensationalism. The common sense of the author and her obviously deep and mature grasp of her subject combine unusually well.

131.34 HOR

J. A.

BROCKETT, Eleanor *Choosing a career.* Staples, 1959.

The key word in the book is

"choosing", and the emphasis is on the contribution which an individual can make through his career; the theme is that a worthwhile contribution brings a personal satisfaction which far outweighs material success or prestige. The author tries to indicate what career-seekers, their parents and teachers must look for in the character and abilities of the recruit, and in the requirements of the profession under review, rather than an investigation of the "prospects". The approach to the problems of the career woman who marries is realistic and sympathetic, but no new solutions are offered. This is a stylishly-written book, of practical use to all who must consider the problem.

371.425 BRO
L.L.

GARTMAN, Heinz *Science as history.* Hodder, 1960.

A brief but very lucid and comprehensive account of modern scientific and technological achievements, traced from Grecian experiments with steam and ending with photon rockets. The language is simple, without "talking down", surprisingly non-technical and very graphic. The book is fairly original, stimulating and contains a mass of interesting information, and it is a work to stimulate further reading.

609 GAR
D.R.

LOOMIS, Stanley *Du Barry.* Cape, 1960.

This biography of the "last of the line of Royal Mistresses of France", who died under the guillotine as did her sworn enemy Marie Antoinette, is written with such skill and smoothness that even the average reader of romances should be able to enjoy it. A good example of popularised historic writing.

920 DUB
H.O.

JEUGLEKTUUR/JUVENILE LITERATURE

OSMOND, Edward
Houses. J 728.0942
Towns. J 301.30942

Two titles in the 'JUNIOR HERITAGE BOOKS' series published by Batsford.

Each book is an excellent presentation of its kind. The development of English houses- or towns respectively- is shown from the earliest times to the present day. Each book is illustrated by drawings and plans, and by photographs.

The author-illustrator will be remembered as the receiver of the British Library Association's Carnegie Medal Award for the year 1954 for his book: 'The Valley Grows Up'.

The book on Houses as well as the one on Towns will prove useful for those boys and girls who have themes and project work to do and others might like to read it because they are interested in the subject. Age group: about 11-14.

SHARP, Margery *The Rescuers;* illus. by Judith Brook. Collins, 1959.

This is the author's first book for children and she has chosen a fresh and original theme for her fantasy. It is a 'heroic tale' of rescue in which only mice take part. Three of them, Miss Bianca, a very refined pet mouse, Bernard, a humble pantry mouse and Nills, a Norwegian

seafaring mouse are the main characters. The Prisoners Aid Society of which they are members have decided to rescue a prisoner, a poet-mouse, from a dungeon and dangerous task has been alloted to these three mice. The way they set about preparing for their assignment, the hazards they have to overcome, the dangers they are getting into and the final rescue of the prisoner is told to the reader with humor and without sentimentality. Each of the three mice is a highly individual character and a very real person. In the end they return as heroes with their mission successfully accomplished, and they become the winners of the special order of merit bestowed on them by all the members of the Prisoners Aid Society at a big celebration.

Dainty drawings add to the enjoyment of reading of their adventures.

For ages of 10-12 and for reading aloud to younger children.

SUTCLIFF, Rosemary *The Lantern. Bearers.* O.U.P., 1959.

Rosemary Sutcliff confirms her position as one of the foremost writers for children in this story of the struggle between the Roman-British and the Saxon invaders after the last of the Roman legions have returned to Rome.

The hero of the story is Aquila, a young decurion, who realises that he belongs more to Britain than to Rome and stays behind- only to be taken into captivity by the Jutes after another Saxon band has killed his father, burnt his home, and carried his sister, Flavia, away. He returns to Britain after a few years, manages to escape and then makes his way to the West where he joins the forces of Ambrosius, the British king.

Aquila's feelings and actions are sensitively portrayed - his bitterness at Flavia's marriage to a Saxon; his meeting with the gentle Brother Ninnias; his own marriage to Ness, the Celt; his hurt at the barrier between himself and his son; his faithfulness to the memory of his sister when he rescues her son after the final battle and sends him back safely to her - to name but a few instances. Miss Sutcliff does not concentrate on the main character alone, though; all her characters are well drawn and each one has his or her part to play in the unfolding of the story. Her use of words is excellent and her descriptive passages are alive with atmosphere; the more violent scenes of action are vivid and colourful.

The reading of this book will be an enriching experience for any young person who loves history and adventure.

A.I.M.

RUTGERS VAN DER LOEFF, A. *They're drowning our village.* Univ. of London Press, 1959.

This story revolves round the attempts by the villagers of Saint Sylvestre to save their village from being flooded to form a dam for a hydro-electric scheme.

The central figure is Jérôme Ronsard, or Pépé, as he is known to Pierre and his other grandchildren. Pépé is not interested in the benefits which hydro-electric power can give to towns and factories in another part of France, he is concerned only with his village, the making of hay, the harvesting of potatoes and the uninterrupted tenor of village life in general. He decides to go to Paris with his grandchildren to put his case before the President himself. Pépé sees

the President but his mission to save the village is unsuccessful, and he finds it hard to accept the fact that sentiment has to give way before the march of progress. In the end they all have to move.

The village characters are well drawn and their feelings, whether in favour of the dam or in favour of the "resistence movement" against the government, are sensitively portrayed. Pierre, the oldest grandchild, is torn between loyalty to his village and his interest in the dam's progress and the secret dream of becoming an electrical engineer.

This is a very human story which will appeal to the more mature young reader.

A.I.M.

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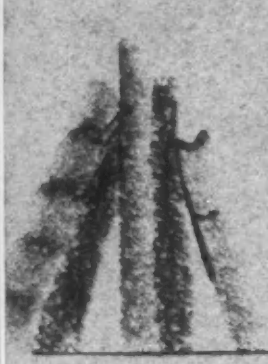

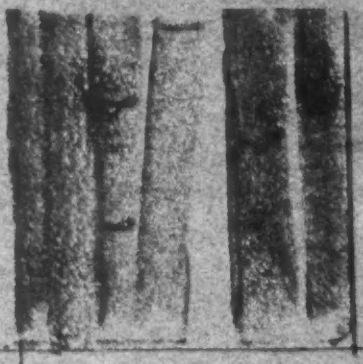

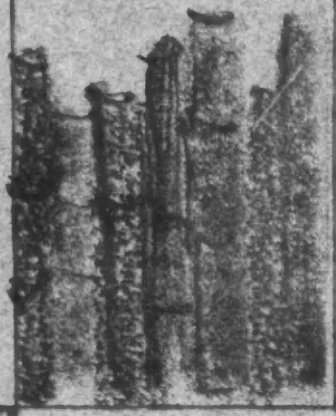

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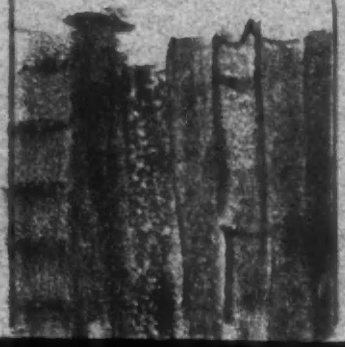
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